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General and complete disarmament: promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation; national legislation on transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

Letter dated 14 November 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On 2 October 2003, a United States official, Roger Noriega, Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, confirmed to a hearing of the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee the Bush Administration's policy of growing hostility and aggression towards Cuba, announced a new plan of subversive activity against our country and reiterated the cynical accusations to the effect that Cuba is developing a limited programme of biological weapons.

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba, issued on 5 October 2003, totally rejecting the unfounded accusations and new threats voiced by Roger Noriega.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 73 (f), 73 (i) and 80.

(*Signed*) Bruno **Rodríguez Parrilla**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 14 November 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

On 2 October 2003, Roger Noriega, Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, confirmed to a hearing of the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee the Bush Administration's policy of increasing hostility and aggression against Cuba. He announced a new plan of subversive activities against our country and reiterated the cynical accusations to the effect that Cuba is developing a limited biological weapons programme.

Mr. Noriega, we recall, was adviser to the ultra-reactionary Senator Jesse Helms and, together with the Miami terrorist mafia, one of the coordinators of the drafting of the infamous Helms-Burton Act. He has evidently followed the path of his predecessor, Mr. Otto Reich, to become the main spokesperson for the anti-Cuban policy as well as being the architect of United States interference in Venezuela's Bolivarian revolution.

In his impudent statements, Noriega announced that the United States Administration is going to intensify its efforts to increase subversion and propaganda against Cuba; increase international pressure against our country; check that blockade restrictions are strictly adhered to, including travel restrictions and measures against foreign business people investing in Cuba; and is threatening to take new actions against Cuban diplomats in the United States.

While totally rejecting these new imperial threats by Mr. Noriega, Cuba once again denounces the plans of the Bush Administration aimed at pleasing the Cuban-American extreme right wing which is increasing its pressure and intensifying its electoral blackmail as the 2004 presidential elections approach.

Mr. Noriega suffers from stupid arrogance and acts like a fanatical member of the Miami terrorist groups obsessed with the destruction of the Cuban Revolution.

Once more, this individual has shamefully lied in order to try to link Cuba with bioterrorism. It is evident that he has learnt nothing from the ridiculous antics of his colleagues John Bolton, Dan Fisk and Otto Reich. As before, Cuba is calling on the United States Administration to demonstrate that it is not shamefully lying and to present a modicum of evidence to back up these mendacious accusations that our country is developing biological weapons. Such cynical lies deserve contempt and we warn them in advance that we are not in the least frightened.

It is disgraceful that senior United States Government officials have to lie before Congress in order to justify their discredited anti-Cuban policy.

It is not worth wasting time over Mr. Noriega's fallacious charlatanism. Not one single person in Cuba is going to lose sleep over his repugnant statements and threats. They should be aware beforehand how costly any aggression against Cuba will be.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Havana, 5 October 2003